



A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects  
370 James Street, Suite 402, New Haven, CT 06513  
203-865-2195 FAX: 203-562-5378  
aiainfo@aiact.org, [www.aiact.org](http://www.aiact.org)

March 3, 2015

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committees

Good Morning, my name is Diane Harp Jones. I am pleased to be the CEO/EVP for the Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. AIA Connecticut has served as the professional association for architects in the State of Connecticut since 1903, some 112 years. In addition to being one of the longest established chapters within the country, we are proud to boast of having one of the largest and most prestigious memberships. We are generally the tenth or eleventh largest chapter in the American Institute of Architects and we include in our membership, architects having national and international reputations, being highly respected by their peers.

I am submitting this testimony to please ask for your support of Senate Bill 1032, *An Act Concerning the Applicability of the Statute of Limitations to Construction and Design Actions Brought by the State or a Political Subdivision of the State*.

The Supreme Court decision in Connecticut vs. Lombardo Bros, decided in late 2012 has had a seriously detrimental impact on our member firms and on all those within the design and construction industry in the State, when eliminated a Statute of Limitations for State of Connecticut projects. Many of our member firms rely, and in this recent economic climate, even depend on State work for their livelihood. They are now fearful of the risk they are incurring. The State will no doubt see this concern of unlimited risk translating into the increasing of fees for professional services as this risk now has no time limit. Many of our firms are questioning whether they should engage in working with the State. Bonding and professional liability insurance are issues. Our neighboring states, New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts do have a Statute of Limitations.

AIA Connecticut represents approximately 445 member firms employing over 3,000 Connecticut residents. Architecture practices are the linchpin that insures a healthy design and construction industry within our State. The burden of this Court decision is placing an unreasonable business liability on each of those design and construction businesses doing work with the State. We ask that you protect a culture of businesses being welcomed and supported in Connecticut by voting favorably to adopt a Statute of Limitations.

Please help us maintain the quality of excellence in the design and construction of our State building inventory. Please provide a fair and reasonable business climate in which our members may continue to excel in the work they do.

We ask for your support.

Thank you.

Officers

Philip H. Cerrone, III, AIA  
President  
Timothy L. Brewer, AIA  
Vice President

Arthur L. Sanders, AIA  
Secretary  
George Fellner, AIA  
Treasurer

Directors

Daniel Casinelli, AIA  
Stephanie Degen-Monroe, AIA  
Glenn R. Gollenberg, AIA  
Alan S. Lagocki, AIA  
George McGoldrick, AIA

Martin A. Onorato, Esq., Associate AIA  
Michael Pereira, Associate AIA  
Kermit D. Thompson, AIA

Diane Harp Jones, CEO/EVP